

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 17 AUG 1954

SUBJECT Use and Availability of Radio and Television Sets/
Telephone and Telegraph Facilities and ServiceNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIREDDATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

DATE OF

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The wired radio is the prevalent type in the USSR and extends even to most kolkhozes. 25X1
2. No fixed-channel-type radios are produced in the USSR. Radios can all be tuned to catch any station. However, in practice, only Soviet broad- casts can be heard on medium and long waves because of low sensitivity of receivers.
3. The Government does not keep a record of what persons purchase tunable receivers. Such radios can be purchased freely in stores at fairly reasonable prices. Medium and long waves are the same as European stan- dards, but short waves do not go below 25 kc and go up to 60 kc. High, medium and low frequency band radios were available for purchase by the general public. Most of these radios were not equipped with frequency modulation. There were also many used foreign sets, particularly of Ger- man manufacture, which were superior to the Soviet product. The "RADIO- TEKHNIKA" receiver, manufactured in Riga with frequency modulation, is considered the best Soviet receiver, and another good set is the "BYELO- RUSSIYA". The "URAL" set is equipped with a phonograph attachment, and the "MOSKIVICH" is a regenerative set with medium and long bands selling for 200 rubles. The "LENINGRAD" is a three-band receiver. Receivers were not particularly difficult to obtain and were not expensive, but the better sets were sold out as soon as they appeared in the stores.
4. In the USSR, the Government does not make a practice of compulsory ex- change of tunable receivers for fixed-tuned or limited-tuned receivers.
5. All radios must be registered, but the type of receiver is not indicated.

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For taxing purposes, the registration indicates whether the receiver is a crystal set or whether it is a set with tubes, and how many.

6. No surveillance over receivers and listeners is carried out in the USSR.
7. A radio set is registered at the post office at the time it is bought. At the same time, the owner pays a fee or tax. This fee must subsequently be paid quarterly and a reminder is sent out if the payment is late in coming.
8. The USSR does not impose confiscatory taxes on any types of receivers.
9. Special services such as fire departments and military organizations (but not the militia) use special bands from 30 to 100 megacycles, AM. There are also regular public service broadcasts on frequencies above 30 megacycles. The largest cities have FM broadcasts on frequencies of about 60 megacycles. Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev have television broadcasts with 50 megacycles AM used on the screen and 55 megacycles FM used on the sound.
10. There is no deliberate withholding of spare parts for radio receivers practiced in the USSR, though it is not always possible to get all parts because there may be shortages. The Koptevo market, located near the Koptevo subway station in Moscow, has a great variety of spare parts available. Though it is not always possible to obtain all spare parts to do one's own repair work, if the set is entrusted to a repair shop the necessary parts will be obtained and the work accomplished. [redacted] it would be possible for a person to purchase all parts necessary to build at home any radio set, even many foreign sets. 25X1
11. The Government does not practice the compulsory removal of high-frequency components of multi-band receivers.
12. The Government does not manipulate receiver prices to preclude the purchase of certain types.
13. [redacted] 25X1
14. [redacted]
15. [redacted] It has become easier and easier to obtain short-wave radio sets. 25X1
16. In Moscow, about 100 meters from a 26-story skyscraper on Kotel'nicheskaya Naberezhka, there is a group of buildings with special antennas projecting from the roof. In January 1954, [redacted] this installation was jamming VOA broadcasts. There are several jamming units for various wave lengths. [redacted] there are several other jamming stations in and around Moscow. The antenna is a dipole type combined with a reflector and director. There were many antennas set up to cover overlapping sections. [redacted] some of the antennas can be rotated. 25X1
17. Most jamming is done in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. The jamming was very effective in Moscow. Only political broadcasts were jammed. One could occasionally hear the first few words of a political statement before it was interfered with. 25X1

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- [redacted] 25X1
19. All [redacted] had the standard wired loudspeaker installations. In addition, the majority owned tunable receivers for low, medium and high-frequency bands. A few had television. 25X1
20. [redacted] there is a great desire to listen to broadcasts from the Western world. The reaction varies according to the programs. Most listeners are not interested in musical programs and are not interested in hearing boasting about the US standard of living. What they are interested in is the attitude of the US people and Government toward the Russian people. Comments after the broadcasts were usually confined to the straight news items. [redacted] most people preferred the BBC broadcasts because they contained no bragging about the standard of living. 25X1
21. The only radio station [redacted] was the "Volga" station about 20 kilometers from Berlin on the road to Dresden. [redacted] it had two towers with antenna. 25X1
22. The following television sets were available: 25X1
- (a) The "MOSKVIKH" series with a 7" tube, all made in Moscow. They were the following:
 - (1) KVKh-1
 - (2) KVKh-2
 - (3) KVKh-IT
 - (4) KVKh-1-49
 - (b) The "LENINGRAD" with a 9" tube. The T-1 is a regular TV while the latter also has a radio receiver of the multi-channel, fixed-tuned-type with a trimmer. This set is the most common with thousands in use in Moscow. It is assembled in Radeburg, Soviet Zone of Germany, by the Kable firm, a German-Soviet Joint Stock company. The radio for the set is made in Schoeneberg. Tubes for the set are now produced by the Shchelkovo plant near Moscow.
23. Large organizations such as ministries have their own telephone switchboards. The various Moscow exchanges are designated by letters. Thus, the letter "B" stands for the exchange covering the central rayons of Moscow, "V" stands for the Baumanskaya exchange, "F" for the Arbatskaya exchange, "D" and [redacted] "Zh" is the Taganskaya exchange, "I" the Kirovskaya exchange. All government offices use the "K" exchange. "K-6" represents the Central Committee and the MVD. Each of these exchanges is a separate building with its own facilities. 25X1
24. Most phones in Moscow are dial phones, though there are still some that are manually operated. The Moscow telephone system is inadequate in the sense that there is a shortage of phones. However, the operators work adequately well and reception is clear.
25. It is extremely difficult to get a telephone installed in one's home. One must have need of a telephone in connection with his employment in order to have one installed. The procedure is to obtain a request (khozdataystvo) from the place of employment which is transmitted to the local exchange together with a declaration (zayavleniye). The local exchange then, in due time, installs the phone for a charge of 100-150 rubles. Monthly charges are relatively inexpensive - 25 rubles. In many cases, where there are several families occupying one apartment, they all use a common telephone.

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26. Long distance phone calls can be made from a home phone or from a business phone, but never from a public phone booth. Most post offices have long distance phone facilities and there are also some separate telephone offices. The procedure when phoning from a telephone office is to give the attendant your name, address, the number you wish to call and the length of the conversation. Payment is made before the call is put through. The attendant then tells you whether you can be connected right away and, if not, when you should return to make the call. If the call is to be made abroad, the procedure is the same, and it is not necessary to present your documents. You must provide the number you wish to call and then the operator clears whether you are permitted to call such a number by telephoning someone in the Ministry of Communications for the necessary permission. You are not allowed to call anyone but a Soviet national. If a call to Karlshorst is made, all Soviet phones begin with the number 50 followed by four other ciphers. All trade representation offices (torgpredstvo) begin with the number 42, though this number is not exclusive as other, German, numbers can also begin with 42. It is necessary to name the person with whom you wish to talk. These rules are the same for all countries to which you may wish to make a call. The rate from Moscow to Berlin is 2.80 rubles per minute. Most of this information can be had in a Moscow telephone directory.

27. [redacted] calls abroad are surely monitored [redacted] the Ministry of Communications handles monitoring or [redacted] the MVD steps into the picture.

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[redacted] a foreigner would have to put in his order for a call ahead of time as anyone else and that a competent linguist would be selected to monitor such a conversation.

28. The length of time required to put through a call would depend upon many variables and could range from 10 minutes to a whole day.
29. Telephone wires are underground in most of Moscow, although in the outskirts they are to be seen above ground.
30. The sending of a telegram is a very simple procedure. Most post-offices have telegraph facilities and there are many separate telegraph offices as well. Messages can be written only in Russian. The message is written on a blank, the number of words is counted and the price marked on the same blank. The writer of the message then pays the sum specified and the message is sent. If the message is to be sent abroad, the sender must provide his name and address, but if the message goes only to some point in the Soviet Union, only the sender's name is necessary.

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